

Please cancel, without prejudice, claims 1 to 21.

Please add new claims 22 to 61 as follow:

- (N)
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22. A system for process control in a combustion application, comprising:
- a) a tunable diode laser for generating a frequency modulated near-infrared laser beam;
 - b) transmitting means for transmitting the near-infrared laser beam through off-gas produced by the combustion application;
 - c) detecting means for detecting the transmitted laser beam;
 - d) controller means for analyzing the detected laser beam for select CO and H₂O absorption lines to determine CO concentration, and for producing an electrical signal in response to CO concentration; and
 - e) a control system for providing adjustment of select inputs to the combustion application in response to the electrical signal from the controller means.
23. A system according to claim 22 wherein the controller comprises means for providing predetermined calibration curves to determine CO concentration.
24. A system according to claim 23 wherein the calibration curve is CO concentration as a function of CO absorption lines and temperature.
25. A system according to claim 24 wherein the controller determines the temperature of the off-gas from analysis of the H₂O absorption lines.
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26. A method according to claim 25 wherein the H₂O absorption lines targeted respond differentially to changes in temperature.
27. A system according to claim 25 wherein the temperature of the off-gas is determined from the ratio of two H₂O absorption lines.
28. A system according to claim 22 wherein the CO absorption lines targeted have a profile of strong lines as compared to H₂O.
29. A system according to claim 22 wherein the CO absorption line is located at 1577.96 nm, and the H₂O absorption lines are located at 1577.8 nm and 1578.1 nm.
30. A system according to claim 22 wherein the laser generates a laser beam having a wavelength in the range of about 0.7 μ m to about 3.0 μ m.
31. A system according to claim 22 wherein the laser generates a laser beam having a wavelength in the range of about 1.5 μ m to about 1.7 μ m.
32. A system according to claim 22 wherein the laser is a distributed feedback laser.
33. A system according to claim 32 wherein the laser generates a laser beam having a wavelength in the range of about 1.57 μ m to about 1.59 μ m.
34. A system according to claim 22 wherein the frequency modulation is operated at MHz frequencies.
35. A system according to claim 22 wherein the select inputs to the combustion application comprise oxygen.

36. A system according to claim 22 wherein the select inputs to the combustion application comprise fuel.
37. A system according to claim 22 wherein the select inputs to the combustion application comprise electric power.
38. A system according to claim 35 wherein the select inputs to the combustion application comprise fuel.
39. A system according to claim 35 wherein the select inputs to the combustion application comprise electric power.
40. A system according to claim 36 wherein the select inputs to the combustion application comprise electric power.
41. A system according to claim 38 wherein the select inputs to the combustion application comprise electric power.
42. A method for process control in a combustion application, comprising:
- transmitting a frequency modulated near-infrared laser beam through off-gas produced by the combustion application to target CO and H₂O;
 - detecting the transmitted laser beam;
 - analyzing the detected laser beam for select CO and H₂O absorption lines;
 - determining the CO concentration from the CO and H₂O absorption lines;
 - adjusting select inputs of the combustion application in response to the CO concentration.

43. A method according to claim 42 wherein CO concentration is determined using predetermined calibration curves.
44. A method according to claim 43 wherein the calibration curve is CO concentration as a function of CO absorption lines and temperature.
45. A method according to claim 44 wherein the H₂O absorption lines are used to determine the temperature of the off-gas
46. A method according to claim 45 wherein the targeted H₂O has absorption lines that respond differentially to changes in temperature.
47. A method according to claim 45 wherein the temperature of the off-gas is determined from the ratio of two H₂O absorption lines;
48. A method according to claim 42 wherein the targeted CO has a profile of strong absorption lines as compared to H₂O.
49. A method according to claim 42 wherein the CO absorption line is located at 1577.96 nm, and the H₂O absorption lines are located at 1577.8 nm and 1578.1 nm.
50. A method according to claim 42 wherein the wavelength of the laser beam is in the range of about 0.7 μ m to about 3.0 μ m.
51. A method according to claim 42 wherein the near-infrared laser beam is transmitted by a tunable diode laser.

52. A method according to claim 51 wherein the wavelength of the laser beam is in the range of about 1.5 μm to about 1.7 μm .
53. A method according to claim 42 wherein the near-infrared laser beam is transmitted by a distributed feedback laser.
54. A method according to claim 53 wherein the wavelength of the laser beam is in the range of about 1.57 μm to about 1.59 μm .
55. A method according to claim 42 wherein the select inputs to the combustion application comprise oxygen.
56. A method according to claim 42 wherein the select inputs to the combustion application comprise fuel.
57. A method according to claim 42 wherein the select inputs to the combustion application comprise electric power.
58. A method according to claim 55 wherein the select inputs to the combustion application comprise fuel.
59. A method according to claim 55 wherein the select inputs to the combustion application comprise electric power.
60. A method according to claim 56 wherein the select inputs to the combustion application comprise electric power.

61. A method according to claim 58 wherein the select inputs to the combustion application comprise electric power.